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Does the Yellow Emperor regard these things
Because it is the fashion to do so
Among people of importance?

T'ao Ch'ien—Fourth Century

A RECLUSE

A cold rain blurs the edges of the river.
Night enters Wu.
In the level brightness of dawn
I saw my friend start alone for the Ch'u mountain.
I gave him this message for my friends and relations:
My heart is a piece of ice in a jade cup.

Wang Chang-ling—Tenth Century

AFTER HOW MANY YEARS

Spring

The willows near the roadside rest-house are soft with new-
burst leaves.
I saunter along the river path,
Listening to the occasional beating of the ferry drum.
Clouds blow and separate,
And between them I see the watch towers
Of the distant city
They come in official coats
To examine my books.